

August 22, 2019

VIA ECF

The Honorable Lorna G. Schofield
U.S. District Court
Southern District of New York
Thurgood Marshall U.S. Courthouse
40 Foley Square
New York, New York 10007

Re: Contant, et al. v. Bank of Am. Corp., et al.,
No. 17 Civ. 3139 (LGS) (S.D.N.Y.)

Dear Judge Schofield:

Pursuant to this Court's November 16, 2018 Order (ECF No. 176), the parties write to update the Court on the status of the above-captioned action.

I. Pleadings

A. Plaintiffs' Motion for Reconsideration and Proposed Amended Complaint

On May 31, 2019, plaintiffs filed a motion for reconsideration of this Court's May 17, 2019 Order granting dismissal as to The Royal Bank of Scotland plc and Société Générale. (*See* ECF Nos. 276-77.) On June 24, 2019, The Royal Bank of Scotland plc and Société Générale filed their opposition. (ECF No. 285.) On July 8, 2019, this Court denied plaintiffs' motion for reconsideration. (ECF No. 288.)

On July 25, 2019, plaintiffs requested a pre-motion conference with the Court regarding plaintiffs' anticipated motion for leave to file a Third Consolidated Class Action Complaint to include new jurisdictional allegations as to The Royal Bank of Scotland plc ("RBS"). (ECF No. 293.) On July 26, 2019, this Court ordered that by August 2, 2019, plaintiffs submit (1) an unredacted copy of the proposed amended complaint to the Chambers inbox, (2) a blackline version indicating all changes from the last complaint filed, and (3) an application to file the proposed amended complaint in redacted form. (ECF No. 295.) Plaintiffs submitted these materials on August 2, 2019. In the July 26 Order, this Court further ordered that by August 9, 2019, any party opposing plaintiffs' motion for leave to amend file a letter response not to exceed three pages. (*Id.*)

On August 5, 2019, the Court granted plaintiffs' request to file their proposed Third Consolidated Class Action Complaint in redacted form on ECF and ordered plaintiffs to file their proposed Third Consolidated Class Action Complaint in redacted form on ECF and in unredacted form under seal. (ECF 303.) Plaintiffs filed their

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proposed amended complaint on August 5, 2019. (ECF No. 304.) On August 9, 2019, RBS filed a letter response in opposition to plaintiffs' request for a pre-motion conference regarding plaintiffs' proposed amended complaint. (ECF No. 308.) On August 21, 2019, plaintiffs filed their reply letter in further support of their request for a pre-motion conference. (ECF No. 312)

B. Plaintiffs' Motion for Preliminary Approval of Citigroup and MUFG Settlements

On May 29, 2019, plaintiffs filed a motion for preliminary approval of settlements with Citigroup Inc., Citibank, N.A., Citicorp, Citigroup Global Markets Inc. (collectively, "Citigroup") and MUFG Bank, Ltd. (formerly known as The Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ, Ltd.) ("MUFG"), as well as for certification of the proposed settlement classes for settlement purposes, appointment of settlement class representatives, and appointment of settlement class counsel. (See ECF Nos. 272-74.) On May 30, 2019, this Court ordered that any opposition to plaintiffs' preliminary approval motion be filed by July 11, 2019. (ECF No. 275.) No oppositions were filed. On July 25, 2019, this Court held a preliminary approval hearing, at which this Court requested the parties submit a revised proposed order, incorporating the language proposed by the non-settling defendants in their June 24, 2019 letter (ECF No. 284). On July 26, 2019, plaintiffs submitted the revised proposed order. (ECF No. 296.) On July 29, 2019, this Court entered an Order preliminarily approving the settlements with Citigroup and MUFG, preliminarily certifying the settlement classes, and appointing settlement class representatives and settlement class counsel. (ECF No. 297.)

C. Defendants' Answers to the Second Consolidated Class Action Complaint

On January 11, 2019, Non-Foreign Defendants filed answers to plaintiffs' Second Consolidated Class Action Complaint. (See ECF Nos. 205-216.) The remaining Foreign Defendants not subject to plaintiffs' motion for reconsideration—Standard Chartered Bank, Barclays Bank PLC, BNP Paribas Group, HSBC Bank PLC, and UBS AG—filed their answers on June 3, 2019. (See ECF Nos. 279-283.)

II. Discovery

A. Production of Documents

Pursuant to this Court's November 16, 2018 Order (ECF No. 176), Non-Foreign Defendants produced to plaintiffs documents and recordings produced in discovery in *In re Foreign Exchange Benchmark Rates Antitrust Litigation* (S.D.N.Y. No. 13-cv-7789) ("*FOREX*"), as well as transactional data for spot FX Instrument transactions with entities identified as retail foreign exchange dealers ("RFEDs") by plaintiffs in November

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21, 2018 and December 21, 2018 correspondence. On May 10, 2019, defendants produced *FOREX* plaintiffs' redacted expert reports filed in connection with *FOREX* plaintiffs' motion for class certification. Discovery was stayed as to Foreign Defendants until the Court's ruling on their joint Rule 12(b)(2) motion to dismiss. After this Court's ruling, on June 20, 2019, UBS AG, HSBC Bank plc, Standard Chartered Bank similarly produced to plaintiffs documents and recordings produced in discovery in *FOREX*, as well as transactional data for spot FX Instrument transactions with entities identified as RFEDs by plaintiffs in correspondence dated November 21, 2018 and December 21, 2018.

On March 11, 2019, Non-Foreign Defendants served a first set of requests for production on plaintiffs. On May 1, 2019, plaintiffs served their responses and objections. Defendants first requested that the parties meet and confer on May 17, 2019, and the parties are continuing to meet and confer. On June 5, 2019, defendants first proposed search terms to be applied to plaintiff's electronic document collections. On June 27, 2019, the parties agreed to a form of proposed search terms, subject to revisions based upon the results as applied to plaintiffs' electronic documents. Defendants have requested and plaintiffs have agreed to substantially complete production of plaintiffs' documents other than electronically stored information ("ESI") in response to defendants' first set of requests by July 31, 2019, and to substantially complete production of plaintiffs' ESI documents in response to these requests by August 30, 2019. On July 31, 2019, plaintiffs made their first production in response to Non-Foreign Defendants' first set of requests.

B. Initial Disclosures

Plaintiffs and Non-Foreign Defendants exchanged initial disclosures on February 11, 2019. On June 17, 2019, HSBC Bank plc served initial disclosures on plaintiffs, followed by UBS AG and BNP Paribas (SA), both of whom served their initial disclosures on June 27, 2019. Standard Chartered Bank served initial disclosures on July 3, 2019.

C. Interrogatories

On February 11, 2019, defendants BNP Paribas US Wholesale Holdings Corp. and BNP Paribas Securities Corp. served a first interrogatory on plaintiffs, to which plaintiffs served their responses and objections on March 13, 2019. On March 11, 2019, The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. and Goldman Sachs & Co. LLC also served a first set of interrogatories on plaintiffs, as did Deutsche Bank AG and Deutsche Bank Securities Inc., to which plaintiffs served their responses and objections on May 1, 2019. On June 17, 2019, defendants JPMorgan Chase & Co. and JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A. served a first set of interrogatories on plaintiffs. On July 19, 2019, plaintiffs served their

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responses and objections to JPMorgan's interrogatories and on July 25, 2019, plaintiffs served their amended responses and objections. On July 26, 2019, plaintiffs served a supplemental amended response to BNP's interrogatory.

On April 2, 2019, plaintiffs served a first interrogatory on all defendants. On May 2, 2019, responses and objections to this interrogatory were served by BNP Paribas US Wholesale Holdings Corp. and BNP Paribas Securities Corp.; Bank of America Corporation, Bank of America, N.A., and Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated; Barclays Bank PLC and Barclays Capital Inc.; Credit Suisse AG and Credit Suisse Securities (USA) LLC; Deutsche Bank AG and Deutsche Bank Securities Inc.; The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. and Goldman Sachs & Co. LLC; HSBC North America Holdings, Inc., HSBC Bank USA, N.A., and HSBC Securities (USA) Inc.; JPMorgan Chase & Co. and JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A.; Morgan Stanley, Morgan Stanley & Co., LLC, and Morgan Stanley & Co. International plc; RBC Capital Markets, LLC; RBS Securities Inc.; and UBS Securities LLC.

D. Third Party Discovery

On March 14, 2019, plaintiffs initiated service of subpoenas on sixty-one third parties. On April 11, 2019, FX Direct Dealer, LLC filed a motion to quash the subpoena served upon them by plaintiffs (ECF No. 251), which this Court denied on April 18, 2019 (ECF No. 254). On June 27, 2019, plaintiffs mailed letters to eight RFEDs that failed to respond to plaintiffs' subpoenas by their specified production deadlines. Plaintiffs are currently negotiating the scope and manner of responsive productions with counsel for FX Direct Dealer, LLC and other RFEDs that timely served responses and objections to plaintiffs' subpoenas.

Since April 5, 2019, Non-Foreign Defendants initiated service of subpoenas on fifty-eight third parties and are presently meeting and conferring with thirty of those third parties. Six of those third parties—Advanced Markets LLC; Charles Schwab Futures, Inc.; FX Direct Dealer, LLC; Institutional Liquidity Holdings, LLC (n/k/a/ Navitas Investments, LLC); Philip Capital, Inc.; and RJ O'Brien Associates LLC—have made productions to defendants.

To facilitate discovery, the parties have agreed to share documents or data produced in response to a subpoena or request of any kind issued in connection with the action, along with any accompanying cover letter or other transmittal communication, within seven days, to the extent such documents or data were not otherwise served on the other parties by the producing party.

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Pursuant to this Court's May 2, 2019 Order (ECF No. 259), the fact discovery deadline has been extended to February 3, 2020 and the case management conference originally scheduled for May 16, 2019, has been adjourned to January 9, 2020. In light of that Order, pre-motion letters in support of dispositive and class certification motions are due no later than two weeks before the January 9, 2020 case management conference (ECF No. 258).

The parties are not seeking the Court's intervention in any discovery disputes at this juncture.

Respectfully submitted,

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BERGER MONTAGUE PC

By: /s/ Michael Dell'Angelo

Michael Dell'Angelo

Merrill Davidoff

Michael Kane

Joshua T. Ripley

1818 Market Street, Suite 3600

Philadelphia, PA 18103

Telephone: (215) 875-3000

mdellangelo@bm.net

mdavidoff@bm.net

mkane@bm.net

jripley@bm.net

SCHNEIDER WALLACE COTTRELL

KONECKY WOTKYNS LLP

Garrett W. Wotkyns

8501 North Scottsdale Road, Suite 270

Scottsdale, AZ 85253

Telephone: (480) 428-0142

gwotkyns@schneiderwallace.com

PEIFFER WOLF CARR & KANE, APLC

Joseph C. Peiffer

201 St. Charles Avenue, Suite 4610

New Orleans, LA 70170

Telephone: (504) 523-2434

jpeiffer@pwcklegal.com

MCCULLEY MCCLUER PLLC

R. Bryant McCulley

Stuart McCluer

1022 Carolina Boulevard, Suite 300

Charleston, SC 29451

Telephone: (855) 467-0451

bmcculley@mcculleymccluer.com

smccluer@mcculleymccluer.com

Attorneys for Plaintiffs and the Proposed Classes

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SULLIVAN & CROMWELL LLP

SKADDEN, ARPS, SLATE, MEAGHER &
FLOM LLP

By: /s/ Matthew A. Schwartz
Matthew A. Schwartz
Matthew A. Peller
125 Broad Street
New York, New York 10004
Telephone: (212) 558-4000
schwartzmatthew@sullcrom.com
pellerma@sullcrom.com

By: /s/ Boris Bershteyn
Boris Bershteyn
Tansy Woan
Four Times Square
New York, New York 10036
Telephone: (212) 735-3000
boris.bershteyn@skadden.com
tansy.woan@skadden.com

Gretchen M. Wolf (admitted *pro hac vice*)
155 N. Wacker Dr., Suite 2700
Chicago, Illinois 60606
Telephone: (312) 407-0700
gretchen.wolf@skadden.com

*Attorney for Defendant Barclays Bank PLC
and Barclays Capital Inc.*

*Attorneys for Defendants JPMorgan Chase &
Co. and JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A.*

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SHEARMAN & STERLING LLP

By: /s/ Adam S. Hakki
Adam S. Hakki
Richard F. Schwed
Jeffrey J. Resetarits
599 Lexington Avenue
New York, New York 10022
Telephone: (212) 848-4000
ahakki@shearman.com
rschwed@shearman.com
jeffrey.resetarits@shearman.com

*Attorneys for Defendants Bank of America
Corporation, Bank of America, N.A. and Merrill
Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated*

ALLEN & OVERY LLP

By: /s/ David C. Esseks
David C. Esseks
Laura R. Hall
Rebecca Delfiner
1221 Avenue of the Americas
New York, NY 10020
Telephone: (212) 610-6300
david.esseks@allenoverly.com
laura.hall@allenoverly.com
rebecca.delfiner@allenoverly.com

*Attorneys for Defendants BNP Paribas Group,
BNP Paribas North America, Inc., BNP Paribas
Securities Corp., and BNP Paribas Prime
Brokerage, Inc.*

MOORE AND VAN ALLEN PLLC

By: /s/ James P. McLoughlin, Jr.
James P. McLoughlin, Jr.
Mark A. Nebrig
Joshua D. Lanning
Moore and Van Allen PLLC
100 N. Tryon Street, Suite 4700
Charlotte, North Carolina 28202
Telephone: (704) 331-1000
jimmcloughlin@mvalaw.com
marknebrig@mvalaw.com
joshlanning@mvalaw.com

*Attorneys for Defendant RBC Capital Markets,
LLC*

DAVIS POLK & WARDWELL LLP

By: /s/ Paul S. Mishkin
Paul S. Mishkin
Adam G. Mehes
Maude Paquin
450 Lexington Avenue
New York, New York 10017
Telephone: (212) 450-4000
paul.mishkin@davispolk.com
adam.mehes@davispolk.com
maude.paquin@davispolk.com

*Attorneys for Defendant RBS Securities Inc., now
known as NatWest Markets Securities Inc.*

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LOCKE LORD LLP

By: /s/ Gregory T. Casamento

Gregory T. Casamento
3 World Financial Center
New York, NY 10281
Telephone: (212) 812-8325
gcasamento@lockelord.com

Roger B. Cowie
2200 Ross Avenue, Suite 2800
Dallas, TX 75201
Telephone: (214) 740-8000
rcowie@lockelord.com

J. Matthew Goodin
Julia C. Webb
111 South Wacker Drive
Chicago, IL 60606
Telephone: (312) 443-0700
jmgoodin@lockelord.com
jwebb@lockelord.com

*Attorneys for Defendants HSBC Bank PLC,
HSBC North America Holdings, Inc., HSBC
Bank USA, N.A., and HSBC Securities (USA)
Inc.*

GIBSON, DUNN & CRUTCHER LLP

By: /s/ Eric J. Stock

Eric J. Stock
Indraneel Sur
200 Park Avenue, 48th Floor
New York, New York 10166
Telephone: (212) 351-4000
estock@gibsondunn.com
isur@gibsondunn.com

D. Jarrett Arp
Melanie L. Katsur
1050 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036
Telephone: (202) 955-8500
jarp@gibsondunn.com
mkatsur@gibsondunn.com

*Attorneys for Defendants UBS AG and UBS
Securities LLC*

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CLEARY GOTTlieb STEEN &
HAMILTON LLP

By: /s/ Thomas J. Moloney
Thomas J. Moloney
George S. Cary
Rishi Zutshi
One Liberty Plaza
New York, New York 10006
Telephone: (212) 225-2000
tmoloney@cgsh.com
gcary@cgsh.com
rzutshi@cgsh.com

*Attorneys for Defendants The Goldman Sachs
Group, Inc. and Goldman Sachs & Co. LLC*

SIDLEY AUSTIN LLP

By: /s/ Andrew W. Stern
Andrew W. Stern
Nicholas P. Crowell
787 Seventh Avenue
New York, New York 10019
Telephone: (212) 839-5300
astern@sidley.com
ncrowell@sidley.com

*Attorneys for Defendant Standard Chartered
Bank*

LATHAM & WATKINS LLP

By: /s/ Joseph Serino, Jr.
Joseph Serino, Jr.
885 Third Avenue
New York, New York 10022
joseph.serino@lw.com
Telephone: (212) 906-1717

KING & SPALDING LLP

By: /s/ G. Patrick Montgomery
G. Patrick Montgomery
1700 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20006
Telephone: (202) 626-5444
pmontgomery@kslaw.com

*Attorneys for Defendants Deutsche Bank AG and
Deutsche Bank Securities Inc.*

CAHILL GORDON & REINDEL LLP

By: /s/ David G. Januszewski
David G. Januszewski
Elai E. Katz
Herbert S. Washer
Jason M. Hall
Margaret A. Barone
80 Pine Street
New York, NY 10005
Telephone: (212) 701-3000
djanuszewski@cahill.com
ekatz@cahill.com
hwasher@cahill.com
jhall@cahill.com
mbarone@cahill.com

*Attorneys for Defendants Credit Suisse AG, and
Credit Suisse Securities (USA) LLC*

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WACHTELL, LIPTON, ROSEN & KATZ

By: /s/ Jonathan Moses

Jonathan Moses
Bradley R. Wilson
51 West 52nd Street
New York, NY 10019
Telephone: (212) 403-1000
JMMoses@wlrk.com
BRWilson@wlrk.com

*Attorneys for Defendants Morgan Stanley,
Morgan Stanley & Co., LLC, and Morgan
Stanley & Co. International PLC*

LINKLATERS LLP

By: /s/ James R. Warnot, Jr.

James R. Warnot, Jr.
Patrick C. Ashby
Nicole E. Jerry
1345 Avenue of the Americas
New York, New York 10105
Telephone: (212) 903-9000
james.warnot@linklaters.com
patrick.ashby@linklaters.com
nicole.jerry@linklaters.com

Adam S. Lurie
601 13th St. NW
Suite 400
Washington, DC 20005
Telephone: (202) 654-9927
adam.lurie@linklaters.com

Attorneys for Defendant Société Générale